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NASA Procedural Requirements

NPR 8000.4

Effective Date: April 25, 2002

Expiration Date: April 25,
2007**COMPLIANCE IS MANDATORY**[Printable Format \(PDF\)](#)

Subject: Risk Management Procedural Requirements w/Change 1 (4/13/04)

Responsible Office: Office of Safety and Mission Assurance

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APPENDIX A. Glossary

Acceptable Risk. The risk that is understood and agreed to by the program/project, GPMC, Enterprise, and customer, and sufficient to achieve the defined success criteria within the approved level of resources (source - [NPR 7120.5](#)).

Descope. Reduction or elimination of elements of a program/project that can be accomplished while still permitting the program/project to meet the critical program/project objectives. If the program/project has been descoped to a point where the critical program/project objectives cannot be met, then a termination review may be required.

Functional Offices. Headquarters Functional Offices include the Offices of the Chief Financial Officer, Chief Engineer, Chief Information Officer and Chief Scientist as well as Equal Opportunity Programs, Human Resources, General Counsel, Procurement, External Relations, Institutional and Corporate Management, Small and Disadvantaged Business Utilization, Legislative Affairs, Public Affairs, Safety and Mission Assurance, Security Management and Safeguards and Office of Health and Medical Systems.

Life Cycle. The entire course of a program/project from inception in the formulation subprocess to completion in the implementation subprocess.

Likelihood. The probability that an identified risk event will occur.

Primary Risk. Those undesirable events having both high probability and high impact/severity (source - [NPR 7120.5](#)).

Probabilistic Risk Assessment. A systematic, logical, and comprehensive tool to assess risk (likelihood of unwanted consequences) for the purpose of 1) characterizing and improving system performance and mission success, 2) increasing safety in design, operation and upgrade, and 3) saving money in design, manufacturing or assembly, and operation.

Program. A major activity within an Enterprise having defined goals, objectives, requirements, and funding levels, and consisting of one or more projects (source - [NPR 7120.5](#)).

Project. An activity, designated by a program, characterized as having defined goals, objectives, requirements, a Life Cycle Cost (LCC), a beginning, and an end (source - [NPR 7120.5](#)).

Risk. The combination of 1) the probability (qualitative or quantitative) that a program or project will experience an undesired event such as cost overrun, schedule slippage, safety mishap, compromise of security, or failure to achieve a needed technological breakthrough; and 2) the consequences, impact, or severity of the undesired event were it to occur (source - [NPR 7120.5](#)).

Risk Management. An organized, systematic decisionmaking process that efficiently identifies, analyzes, plans, tracks, controls, communicates, and documents risk to increase the likelihood of achieving program/project goals (source - [NPR 7120.5](#)).

Risk Posture. The program/project's level of risk.

Trigger Levels. Warning or control limits applied to the level of risk.

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